

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15, 16, 18-21, and 27 are pending with Claims 1, 9 and 27 amended and Claims 6 and 14 canceled by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 1 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101; Claims 1-3, 9-11, 18, 20, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy (U.S. Patent No. 6,564,380) in view of Griggs (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0029384, hereinafter “Griggs”); Claims 4 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy and Griggs in view of Arai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,751,401, hereinafter “Arai”); Claims 5, 8, 13, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy and Griggs in view of Nelson (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,568); Claims 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy and Griggs in view of Mashayekhi (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,936); and Claims 6, 7, 14, and 15 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the telephone discussions between the Examiner and Applicants’ representative on July 5 and July 6, 2007. During the discussions, the Examiner indicated that Claims 6, 7, 14, and 15 contained allowable subject matter.

Applicants traverse the rejection of Claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and note that various computer program storage devices are described at least on page 96, line 21 – page 97, line 16 of Applicants’ originally filed specification.

Claims 1 and 9 are amended to recite the allowable subject matter of Claims 6 and 14.

Claims 1, 9, and 27 are further amended in response to the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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